



Moultonborough Town News

Fall 2010

MOULTONBOROUGH LAUNCHES NEW ON-LINE TAX & GIS MAPPING PROGRAM

In a continuing effort to improve the flow of information to residents and taxpayers, the Town recently launched a greatly improved version of their On-Line Tax & GIS Maps. Developed in partnership with Cartographic Associates, Inc. (CAI) of Littleton, the program offers expanded functionality, a single access point to assessing data, and advanced mapping, zoning, and aerial imagery. In addition to property maps and assessing data, users will be able to access the Town's growing Geographic Information System (GIS), review zoning and parcel locations, and a host of other services. An added bonus is that the expanded features actually come with a savings of \$1,200 per year to the Town.

Over the coming months the Town will be adding additional functions to the site. The first is a layer indicating the limits of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA). It will allow residents to view, with a relative level of accuracy, the areas of their property that are subject to the CSPA statutory limits and regulations. Consisting of an overall layer, and then

sub-layers indicating the three buffer zones of the CSPA. This valuable tool should help residents find if their property is subject to the CSPA, and if so, which layers and regulations will apply to them if they wish to conduct development or other work requiring a Shoreland Permit from DES.

Our next improvement will be a layer showing the boundaries of Current Use lands within individual properties. As an assessing tool, this will help to better understand how the Town's Current Use parcels are situated, and what size they consist of. It will also be of service for when those particular portions of properties come out of Current Use status when the use changes. This application is being undertaken over this fall and winter as the land records will need to be analyzed and converted into a digital format before they are available for posting on the Town web site.

You may access the new on-line mapping at our website of www.moultonboroughnh.gov by clicking on the home page button titled Tax & GIS Maps. If there is information you think we should add which would benefit town planning, please drop a note to dmerhalski@moultonboroughnh.gov.

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

You may be thinking astrology but we are referring to our local street signs. In our last Newsletter we wrote about the new signs being installed around town. While the old signs seemed perfectly good to many, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had established new standards we had to meet. These required the installation of new 9" sign panels with 6" lettering which is retro-reflective.



Originally we were going to sell the old signs as scrap. However, we had requests to buy them as some have a special meaning to you and your family. The SelectBoard has authorized an offering of these signs at the 2011 sale of surplus town property. You will be able to come into the sale, see if the sign you want is in there and buy it for \$20.00. This portion of the sale will be on a first come first served basis. Any signs remaining after these surplus sales will be sold as scrap as originally planned.

The actual sale date has not been set but it will have convenient viewing hours on a Saturday or late afternoon and evening. It will be advertised in the Meredith News & on our website of www.moultonboroughnh.gov. You may also subscribe to our automated email blaster. Simply go to our home page, click on the box titled Subscribe to Town Updates on our web site and follow the instructions to receive the items of news you are interested in.



As a reminder, the Town only maintains street signs for private roads which intersect with a town or state road. However, you can purchase the same signs, and the safety breakaway posts, through the Town's vendor(s), and at our price, if you so desire. Any questions regarding this purchase program can be directed to Road Agent Scott Kinmond, Director of Public Works by email to skinmond@moultonboroughnh.gov



NEW TOWN ASSESSOR

The town's new Assessor, Gary J. Karp, began work on July 1, 2010. Gary is a New Hampshire native, having been born in Manchester. Here is an introduction to who he is in his own words: "Except for a few months I have lived my entire life in New Hampshire. I spent my childhood in Manchester, and attended local schools. I attended Keene State College, graduating with a degree in History.

After graduation I moved to Portsmouth for a summer job, which ended up lasting for six years. I continued living in the Seacoast Region for many years. During that time I also received my Real Estate Salesman's License and began my love affair with real property. I switched to appraising property in the mid eighties. I also worked part time teaching in an adult education program. I received my General Appraiser Certification from the State of New Hampshire, and I continue to hold my New Hampshire Real Estate Brokers License.

During the mid eighties I moved to the 'Lakes Region,' by far the most beautiful area in New Hampshire. I worked as an Appraiser in Laconia, and then for a company in Plymouth. I married and settled in Ashland. In the nineties my wife took a job at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital and we moved to the Upper Valley area. I continued appraising,

managing the residential division of a small firm, and working in the area between Concord and the Upper Valley.

We moved back to the Plymouth area in the late nineties, settling in Holderness, a short walk from Squam Lake. During this time we adopted two beautiful daughters from China and sadly I lost my wife to cancer.

For the last eight years, I was employed by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue, Appraisal Division, as a Real Estate Monitor providing oversight over Assessing functions. I was part of the team that instituted the statewide assessment review process. I also became a Certified New Hampshire Assessor during this period.

Recently re-married, I continue to live in Holderness with my wife, my two daughters and my wife's daughter.

Becoming the Assessor in Moultonborough is the culmination of a career in real estate that has included working in most areas of the state. I look forward to the challenges this position brings, as well as the wonderful opportunities."

Mr. Karp can be reached at the Assessing Office in Town Hall, by phone at 603-476-2347 or by email at gkarp@moultonboroughnh.gov. He always enjoys an opportunity to explain the complexities of his profession.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PROPERTY VALUES

Capping a two month hearing process, and after a lengthy question and answer period from the taxpayers, the Board of Selectmen voted on September 16, 2010 to approve the 2010 statistical update of values as prepared by Vision Appraisal Technology. Overall Moultonborough's property values continue to defy trends nationwide and hold up well, just like last year. Overall the value of all the property in town will be about 1% lower than last year. About 1,400 properties went up, about 4,400 went down and the balance of our 7,300 parcels stayed roughly the same.

With the informal meetings concluded and a review of the initial values completed, the analysis has been run a second time and the newest values have been released on the Vision website, as well as the Town website.

While some of you took advantage of the informal hearings with Vision, please remember that they are not a part of the appeal process. All property owners can still take advantage of the normal abatement and appeal process. You can file for an abatement once you have received your final tax bill. However, the abatement form must be received in the Assessor's Office by March 1, 2011. Information and forms may be found on our website, www.moultonboroughnh.gov, or you may stop by our

office at Town Hall. After the abatement decision is made by the Board of Selectmen, you may still appeal that decision to the state Board of Tax and Land Appeals or Superior Court on or before September 1, 2011.

I also would like to thank you for bearing with us during the recent update. We have worked hard to ensure that the methodology used for the update is technically sound and that it has provided supportable results. The final quality check on that will be the annual state review by the Department of Revenue Administration.

The staff in the Assessing Office are here to help you should you have any questions or concerns. Remember, if you are a veteran, you may be eligible for a credit on your tax bill. If you are elderly or disabled, you may be eligible for an exemption, so call or stop in and inquire.

As I finish my first summer as your Assessor, I would like to thank the many people who provided support in this new endeavor. I hope that I have been able to help those of you who have come in or called with questions. As always, the goal of the Assessing Department is to provide equitable assessments to all taxpayers.



MILFOIL

The 2010 Town Meeting unanimously approved a \$200,000 Milfoil Trust to begin an ongoing effort to bring the rapidly spreading, non-indigenous milfoil weed under control. DES has broken Moultonborough's Winnepesaukee Shoreline into a recommended three phase treatment plan. During 2009 and 2010 there have been about 400 acres of milfoil identified – 376 acres in the Phase I area plus 24 acres in Phase III (Krainwood Shores – identified in 2009). DES is currently surveying Phase II and Phase III areas. On the town's website you can review a map of the three phases titled "[Proposed Moultonborough Milfoil Control Strategy](#)" in the Maps section of the Milfoil Committee's website area.

Developed in close conjunction with the State we have the draft of a five (5) year treatment plan. DES staff has worked tirelessly on our behalf mapping the areas of Moultonborough's Winnepesaukee waterway identifying infested areas and recommending treatments. By the end of September we had effectively treated over 350 acres. In addition, we are getting cost estimates for DASH/hand pulling of an additional 17-20 acres in the near future. We have joined with Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro in taking advantage of a grant from the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA) to purchase Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) equipment to be shared going forward (Tri-Town DASH Fund). Using another matching grant from the NHLA we established and funded a Lake Host Program which inspects boats before launch and after recovery at the Town's public ramps. Finally, we began a no-cost Weed Watchers network program that will assist in identifying and reporting milfoil locations to identify new growth areas as well as report on the effectiveness of treatments.

2010 Expenses (both planned and actual)			
Herbicide Treatment	\$ 176,270.75	DASH/Hand Pulling	\$31,900.00
Lake Host Program	\$ 7,527.68	Tri-Town DASH Fund	\$41,369.00
Grant & Other Offsets	\$ 56,797.00		

It is critical that we continue to treat areas of heavy infestation as well as maintain those areas already treated. The State has told us we will not be able to eliminate milfoil, but we can expect to control its negative impact by funding and executing our five (5) year plan. Please continue to participate in these discussions and consider volunteering four hours of your time once a month during the summer to help make our Lake Host and Weed Watcher Program(s) even more effective in 2011. For additional information go to the Milfoil Committee page at www.moultonboroughnh.gov.

The Milfoil Committee would like to thank our neighbors for making this improvement program possible and hope to earn your continued support.



LIBRARY NEWS

The library had another hectic summer. Our programs were almost all filled to capacity. We checked out 30,355 materials in just the 3 months of June, July and August. We also registered 314 new patrons. Our 14 high speed internet access computers continued to be in steady demand with 3667 users in those same active 3 months. Our Summer Reading Program (sponsored by the Friends of the Library) was a huge success. As usual, Children's librarian Judi Knowles did an outstanding job of organizing all kinds of programs for the 200 children who participated. The 4th of July Book Sale sold more books than ever before. Jane and Mary Rice work diligently all year long to make our biggest library fundraiser such a popular community event.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library we had many free or discounted passes to offer: Science Center in Holderness, Shaker Village in Canterbury, Currier Museum in Manchester, Wright Museum and Libby Museum in Wolfeboro, and the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord. The Castle in the Clouds

also generously gave us free passes for our patrons to use during the season.

Our collaborations with the Recreation Department (Spring Gardening Series and Isles of Shoals Series), the Moultonborough Historical Society (NH Humanities Council presentations) and the Moultonborough Heritage Commission (lectures on local landmarks) were all so well-received that we are planning more programs together for the coming year. In the fall we also started a partnership with our local bookstore, Bayswater Book Company. The library and Bayswater will be co-sponsoring author signings and other programs throughout the year. Bayswater is also offering a very generous discount of 25% off hard cover books (best-sellers and new releases only) to library patrons who show their library card. In addition, those joining the Friends of the Library for the first time will get 20% off their total purchases (on one occasion).



Our next fun event will be the Christmas Program with musician Paul Warnick leading the carol singing and a visit from our own Moultonborough Santa on Dec. 10th. Children of all ages are welcome!

EDUCATION FUNDING & "DONOR" TOWNS

Have you heard the phrase "Donor Town" in connection with the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and wondered what it was all about?

As the result of a lawsuit in the mid 1990s, and several subsequent suits flowing out of the original case of *Claremont School District v. Governor of New Hampshire*, the NH Supreme Court ruled that the state needed to provide an "adequate education" to all children. In simplest terms, the legislature creates a formula which establishes how many dollars it takes to provide that adequate education to every school child (\$3,450) across the state. They then added a sum which is supposed to account for the "fiscal disparity" between communities. Annually they send a payment to each school district which is essentially the cost of an adequate education per child (plus the "fiscal disparity") times the number of children in the district.

As you can see that approach may mean some towns get more money from the state than the state receives from it if the town has a high student population and relatively low property values. Conversely, some towns may collect more from their taxpayers for the SWEPT than they get back for their student population. This difference is what is referred to as the "Donation" thus making a Town a "Donor".

By way of background, NH law requires that \$363.5 million be raised annually from the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) to go toward the State's share of funding education. The \$600 million remainder comes from the general fund (lottery, real estate transfer tax, etc.).

According to the state formula, it costs \$2,890,979 to provide an "adequate" education for Moultonborough students in the current fiscal year. However, Moultonborough must raise \$6,496,384 under the SWEPT.

That means that in FY 2011, Moultonborough taxpayers will have to "donate" an estimated \$3,450,000 of their tax

dollars to the state which will redistribute it to other New Hampshire communities. This latest "Donation" harkens back to the period between 1999 and 2005 when Moultonborough taxpayers "donated" a whopping **\$27,356,753** to Concord for redistribution to other towns.

The current transition formula said that if Moultonborough raised more than its "adequacy" it could keep the "excess" if it was spent on local education. But as of July 1, 2011, two major changes will occur: 1) the end of a transition period means the formula will compare the cost of adequacy only to the amount raised under the SWEPT and 2) any local option to retain the "excess" disappears. Moultonborough will need to "donate" the "excess" to Concord. Local education costs currently financed with the "excess" SWEPT will have to be funded with local education tax dollars.

Moultonborough is not alone in facing major budgeting challenges due to the coming changes in the State's education funding formula. About half of NH's cities and towns (120) will see decreases in State aid under the formula that also will cost at least an additional \$70 million (and possibly as much as \$150 million or more if the federal stimulus money used this year to plug the education funding budget hole is not renewed). Almost one-third of the communities face cuts of \$100,000 or more, while \$42 million of the extra \$70 million is slated for just two cities; Manchester at \$29 million and Nashua at \$13 million more.

Based upon current projections we estimate that the local FY 2011 tax rate will increase by approximately \$1.25 to cover this. It is essential that the residents of Moultonborough and other communities contact their elected officials and candidates for office with your opinion on this matter.

VISITING NURSE SERVICES

Winter is here! With this in mind here are some basic tips to keep you and your family healthy during the season.

Get your flu shot!

- Call your doctor to schedule your flu shot.
- Call your local Pharmacy to see when they are holding a clinic.
- Check your local paper for area flu clinics.
- Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
 - You should always cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
- Wash hands often, especially when handling food, and after coughing, sneezing or using the bathroom.
- Stay home when you are feeling sick.
- See your doctor for regular check-ups.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town facilities will be closed to celebrate the Holidays as follows:

TOWN OFFICES:

Christmas Holiday	Friday, Dec. 24 th
New Year's Holiday	Friday, Dec. 31 st

TRANSFER STATION:

Christmas Day	Saturday, Dec. 25 th
New Year's Day	Saturday, Jan. 1 st

